

## Voice of the People

### The Assessment Plan.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir—Citizen, Cumberland county. In his letter in to-day's issue of The Times-Dispatch, you give a clear and accurate statement of the plan of the assessors, and the commissioners of revenue assess property and make out their books, both land and personal property, but he doesn't say that the same lack of accuracy and competence is to be found in land assessors, who are now appointed by the circuit judges, and who were formerly by the county judges. They often have the assessment the same as it was five years before, when by improvement it has doubled in value. They cannot employ a deputy, but they will go to a cross-road store, and let the merchant or an idler or two, not under oath as a deputy commissioner of the revenue, assess the land of the whole community. They employ some one else to write their books and make the transfers of land. Wherein are they better than the commissioners elected by the people? Can we expect the great improvement that is needed as a result of having circuit judges appoint the assessors? Surely not, for land assessors, chosen in this manner, are no better and some times even worse than the commissioners elected by the people.  
X. Y.

### Commissioners of Revenue.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir—I see there is a move on foot to have the commissioners of revenue appointed by the judges. I hope you will oppose it. First, I think every servant of the people should be elected by the people, from President to constable. Second, these appointments are generally some political favorite, and as such, they are not a better job, and with this in view try to please the people. If you will take the reassessment of 1905 and compare value with the value of the year and sale recorded that year, you will see that the assessors appointed by the judges missed values more than the commissioners elected by the people. In the case of all means let us have a commissioner of equalization. Let me call your attention to another thing I think the State should be now owner of a very large quantity of delinquent lots or parcels of land. These are of no value to any one. I would suggest a law to be passed, to the sale of the same, and to protect all parties, appoint an attorney to prepare an account for twenty years back. Furnish same to the clerk, who shall give all parties interested four months' notice that the land will be sold on a certain date, and if it brings more than taxes and costs, the excess will be paid for the remaining length of time, subject to order of interested parties, and if not called for during said time it will be turned over to the State. All other delinquent lots and parcels of land, the clerk's office, are full of delinquent land, and the trouble and cost of an individual securing same is so great that no one is willing to do so.  
TAX-PAYER.  
Salem, Va.

### Bonds for Roads.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir—I notice in the proceedings of the House of Delegates a member from the eastern portion of the State offered a bill to reduce the rate of taxation. This is a mistake, rather let it be increased and the money applied to permanent improvement of the roads.  
The following plan is suggested: That the Legislature appropriate \$500,000 to be used in payment of interest on \$15,000,000 of 4 per cent. bonds that the counties be authorized to issue, they to provide the sinking fund to liquidate the debt in forty or fifty years. The population of the State outside of the cities and incorporated towns is about 1,500,000, which gives \$3.33 to the average county; the bonds to be issued according to population. Each 15,000 inhabitants, or an average county, will be authorized to issue \$50,000 bond issue, the proceeds of which must be used in the permanent improvement only of its public roads. These bonds, with the interest, shall be sold by the county, and at a premium, especially if made non-taxable. Let the State have its good roads department that will have a general oversight of road construction through efficient and competent engineers in each county. Of course, it should be availing themselves of the proper State aid. This plan will call for slight increase of taxation, but is the least of any that has been proposed and will enable the average county to construct from fifty to seventy-five miles of permanent highway and the burden of taxation will fall upon the whole people and the corporations and no particular class.  
A SUBSCRIBER.  
Chatham, Va.

### A Woman's Warning.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir—I wish to warn persons having tobacco tags to send for premiums to be sure and see that they pay the proper amount of postage due on those tags, with the written slip enclosed in the package with the tags. I sent a package of tags to a tobacco company about three weeks before Christmas and enclosed the price of paper, stating the number of tags, and the premium was paid in the package with the tags, and had a fine of ten dollars to pay for violation.

### Piles 14 Years

Terrible Case Cured Painlessly With Only One Treatment of Pyramid Pile Cure

Free Package in Plain Wrapper Mailed to Everyone Who Writes.

"I have been a terrible sufferer of piles for fourteen (14) years, and during all this time you have been telling me how many kinds of medicines I tried. But I found no relief whatever. I felt there must be something that could cure me without having to undergo an operation which might kill me.



"Now, after trying but one treatment of your pyramids, I am free, free to tell all sufferers of this dreadful disease to try this medicine—the Pyramid Pile Cure. It will cure when all others fail. Sincerely yours, G. Brannagh, Schellburg, Pa."

Any one suffering from the terrible trouble, burning and itching of piles, will get instant relief from the treatment we send out free, at our own expense, in plain sealed package, to every one sending name and address.

Surgical operation for piles is nerve-racking, cruel and rarely a permanent success. Here you can get a treatment that is quick, easy to apply and inexpensive and free from the publicity and humiliation you suffer by doctors' examination.

Pyramid Pile Cure is made in the form of "loose" pills, and the moment you begin to use it, and your suffering ends.

Send your name and address at once to Pyramid Pile Cure, 1809 E. Broadway, Marshall, Mich., and get, by return mail, the treatment we will send you free, in plain sealed package, to every one sending name and address.

After seeing for yourself what it can do, you can get a regular, full size package of Pyramid Pile Cure from any drug-gist at 50 cents each, or on receipt of price, we will mail you some ourselves if he should not have it.

Main and Fourteenth  
**FISHER'S**  
Established 1865  
Main and Fourteenth

## Your Last Chance

The days of our great Forty-first Anniversary Sale are numbered. It will last but little longer. You'll not have another opportunity to buy such values at the following prices: \$15.00, \$16.50 and \$18.00 Suits, Overcoats and Rain Coats.

# \$9.65

Others at the following prices:

\$7.50 values for	\$4.65
\$10.00 values for	\$6.05
\$12.50 values for	\$7.65
\$20.00 values for	\$11.65

### Boys' Clothing.

Boys' \$2.00 Suits and Overcoats	\$1.35
Boys' \$2.50 Suits and Overcoats	\$1.85
Boys' \$3.50 Suits and Overcoats	\$2.35
Boys' \$4.00 Suits and Overcoats	\$2.85
Boys' \$4.50 Suits and Overcoats	\$3.35
Boys' \$5.00 Suits and Overcoats	\$3.85

### Big Reductions in Furnishings.

75c Men's and Boys' Sweaters	.44c
50c Corduroy Knee Pants	.19c
50c Plush Windsor Caps	.23c
25c Suspenders	.11c
50c and 75c Neckwear, 35c; 3 for	\$1.00
75c Heavy Weight Top Shirts	.44c
\$1.00 All-Wool Underwear	.65c
50c Fancy Ribbed and Fleeced Underwear	.38c
25c and 50c Fancy Lisle Hose	.18c
\$1.50 Men's Wool Pants	.95c
10c Black and Tan Seamless Hose	.4c
10c White Hemstitched Handkerchiefs	.3c

Men's  
\$3.00 Shoes,  
all  
leathers,  
\$1.95

**Fisher & Son**  
ONE PRICE CLOTHING  
MAIN & 14th STREETS

Men's  
Derbys and  
Soft Hats,  
\$1.50 Quailties,  
89c

of the postal laws. The tobacco company instructs you to be sure to enclose the slip of paper in the same package with tags, but says nothing about the amount of postage, and no one would think, when carrying the package to be mailed, of the slip of paper inside. The company sent me a printed post, saying there was 9 cents more postage due on my package and to send it at once in order to prevent having this fine to pay. I sent the package, and last week a postoffice inspector called on me and demanded the payment of the ten-dollar fine.

Now, I think that the company is practicing an imposition on the people by placing these instructions in their book and not saying anything about the class of postage you should send by.

The inspector had a number of these papers with him and had several for this company, and said he had had hundreds of such.

Will you be so kind as to publish this letter; also the secretary's, relating to the matter of a higher class in the number of a lower class, etc. I've forgotten the number of Sec.

MRS. LIZZIE MITCHELL,  
Ruckersville, Va.

### Virginia Coal.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir—I saw an editorial recently in which you suspected that there was a combination of the Norfolk and Western, Chesapeake and Ohio, and Pennsylvania Railroad all under the domination of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Your suspicions were well founded. There is such a combination, such as the combination of the Northern Securities Company. The Pennsylvania road dictates new rules to the Norfolk and Western, Chesapeake and Ohio, and Baltimore and Ohio, and the Baltimore and Ohio 20 per cent. The supply of cars to the coal operators is given so that each of these roads ships rather less than more than the percentage allotted. The coal operators in the Kanawha Valley have only averaged eight and a half days a month for the last year, and conditions on the Norfolk and Western are about the same. The coals of West Virginia are superior in quality to the Pennsylvania and Hocking Valley coals, and when brought in competition with the West Virginia coals are unsalable. Many of the coals of the Pennsylvania road have bought, or are trying to buy, all the coal lands of West Virginia and are using the control they own in the West Virginia roads to cripple and break up all the operators in West Virginia, so they buy the whole outfit at a low price and the Pennsylvania road to dictate the fact of its recent formation. This is a resident of West Virginia and know whereof I speak. I write you this to put you on track and you will find the story from childhood of how Montpelier, Va. was a combination of these roads in restraint of trade, and not only that, but to compel the coal operators and coal-lane owners to sell their property for a song.

You are at liberty to use this information if of any value to your paper as news. I would prefer you to publish this over my name. Would be glad to entertain any of your correspondents here at any time. Can give you more information along this line. Respectfully,  
W. A. FORSTH,  
Gloucester County, Va.

### Mountain Lake.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir—In view of much that has been said and written in the last few years about the famous Mountain Lake in this country, its age, or more truly speaking, its trail, as much of the world, I am sending you the early settlers to sell their cattle, and from that came the name "Salt Pond," which name it bore until the place was purchased in 1870 by General Haupt, of Philadelphia, who made of it a summer resort and changed its name to

Mountain Lake. Its waters are slowly disappearing, and in a few years it will be only a name (J. N. Hoge).

"Pearisburg, or Giles' fourteenth, lies 23 miles southwest from Richmond. Three-quarters of a mile from the bank of New River, nine miles from Pearisburg, on New River, are situated the Hyllea Springs (Eggleson). The celebrated Salt Pond is five miles from these springs. It is a natural and beautiful lake of pure fresh water on the summit of Salt Pond Mountain, one of the highest of the Alleghenies. This pond is about a mile long and four-thirds of a mile wide. At its terminus it is dammed by a huge pile of rocks, over which runs, but which once passed through the lake, and in the spring and summer of 1894 immense quantities of leaves and other rubbish washed in and filled up the fissures, since which it has risen 25 feet. Previous to that time it was fed by a fine large spring at its head, that then disappeared, and several small springs now flow into it at its upper end. When known it was the resort of vast numbers of elk, buffaloes, deer and other wild animals for drink, hence the name of "Salt Pond." It has no taste of salt, and is inhabited by fine trout.—From Henry Howe's History of Virginia, published at Charleston, S. C., 1817.

### The Assessment System.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir—I notice what "Citizen" says about the loose methods of our commissioners of revenue; also his "remedy." I will admit a whole lot that he says is so, but I see both hopes and the mailed claws of a disappointed ambition in his letter. That's one thing more than you saw, judging from your article, and it is in the letter. Yes, it is a fact that our property is generally assessed just for enough to be considered an acknowledgment of ownership—a horse for about what hide and bones are worth; a piano for about what the stool is worth, figuratively speaking. But "Citizen's" remedy won't cure, as the following will prove:

Our land was reassessed last year by men appointed by the circuit judge. I know of a farm of 200 acres, which has had one dwelling, insured for about \$2,000, one tobacco barn, worth \$150; one tobacco barn, worth \$75; one stable, with cow sheds, etc., worth at least \$75; one corn house and carriage shed, new, worth, say, \$50; one granary, first-class, worth no less than \$75; four log houses, for tenants, worth at least \$25 each, \$100; total worth of buildings, \$2,450, and a good orchard, some fence, and an excellent supply of good water, with some timber, all assessed at \$5 per acre, \$1,000—\$1,450 short of the value of the buildings alone.

Now, fellow "Citizen," where is your evidence that the circuit appointee, as commissioner, would do better than the land assessor? There, now, my fellow "Citizen's" statesmanship has gone to pieces on the rocks which line the shore of honest assessment.

Again, can an appointee of the court be a better judge of property than the owner claims to be? If he is a good judge of work horses, would he be competent to judge a race horse? Then, if he was a good judge of milch cows, would that make him competent to judge the value of a piano? But it happened in this neighborhood that a farmer a few years since assessed his horses at \$40 per head and killed because the judge was high; then, in less than three months, sold the oldest, meanest horse he had at \$67.50. I know this.

Now the "remedy." Instruct assessors to assess at a fair value what the horse is worth alive and in condition found, and without consultation of the owner, the owner told the commissioner his horses were only worth \$40 a head; then told the purchaser his meanest horse was worth \$75. Was this fair assessment? These things make our tax rate high, keep our roads bad, our treasury empty. And, worst of all, keep other people from coming here to live.

In the above I unite the shortcomings

## CASTORA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of J. C. Fitch.

In 1871, elected and appointed assessors. "Citizen's" fellow-citizen, D. A. KELLER.

Cumberland, Va.

### Veterinary Science.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir—While the farmers of this State are pleading for money to develop the agricultural industries of the Old Dominion, I sincerely hope that the importance of educating our Virginia boys here in Virginia in the profession of veterinary science (surgery and medicine) will not only be realized, but strongly advocated by them. The writer, who was born, raised and educated in Virginia (graduating at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in agriculture, had then to go North to take a degree in veterinary science, as no Virginia school has ever offered the degree of D. V. S.) is writing this article based on what he has actually observed in his own State, thus knows whereof he speaks.

While one admits that a knowledge of the symptoms, cause and treatment of the diseases of live stock is very beneficial to the farmer, yet they do not seem to realize the fact that it is absolutely necessary, for the protection of the live stock of our State, that we should now be educating at least some of our young men along this particular line. While it is undoubtedly the most important, it is at the same time the worst neglected branch of study, as a profession, in the agricultural course of our State at the present time.

A preparatory course in veterinary science, along with the prescribed agricultural course, has been given here at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute for a number of years. However, we should educate, and graduate, some of our natural born cattle and horse men in this profession.

Virginia is badly in need of more men thoroughly educated along this line. Her sons are born with "horse sense," give them the theory, too, and they will make veterinarians of the highest type. Numbers of veterinarians from England, Canada, as well as from the North and West of the United States have come here to Virginia, located and are practicing the profession with success—the fact that few of our native graduates are practicing or studying the profession, the field is an excellent one, plenty of work for good men, has even attracted foreigners to locate in Virginia.

However, the time has come when many of our country boys see the advantages which are being offered to the veterinarians here, and are practicing the profession, but as inspectors of the Bureau of Animal Industry, surgeons in the army and teachers in the many agricultural colleges.

Therefore, I sincerely hope that a three years' course in veterinary science will hereafter be given at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute instead of the preparatory course which has heretofore been the extent of the work given in this State, thus requiring our boys to go to Washington, Canada or some other of the way place in order to take the degree of D. V. S.

The Bureau of Animal Industry will no longer permit graduates from the Toronto, Canada, Veterinary College to even come up for an examination to fill a position in said bureau, much less employ them, owing to the fact that the course at Toronto is only a two years' course. Thus those graduating from said school since 1897 will have no chance to work there, if they want to fill a position in the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C.

The Virginia Polytechnic Institute, on the other hand, hopes to give a three years' course and training which will fit its graduates for the highest of positions in the country.

When the farmers of Virginia know that a good veterinarian is in reach of their farm, they are going to employ him when their valuable horse, cow, sheep, hog or dog is sick. I am speaking from experience, as I enjoyed a good practice in the counties of Orange, Madison, Greene and vicinity when I was located at Somerset, Orange county, Va. Afterwards I enjoyed even a larger practice in the city of Charlottesville and vicinity, which practice I gave up to accept the position of State veterinarian of my native State.

Thus, in conclusion, permit me to ask all who are really interested in the welfare of Virginia's agricultural future, not only to encourage our brave Executive Committee of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, but also to encourage the State for the veterinary department here, but to earnestly support the Hon. J. Thompson Brown, chairman of the same committee, when he asks for money for the above good cause and purpose.

Give the Virginia boys a chance to take this course at home. Many of our good ones will take advantage of it—it comes natural to them, as a rule. The profession is not only a good one for an individual to follow, from a business point—to make money—but it is an important one to the State at large. While the profession is not a new one, yet Virginia is badly in need of more good men. Then why not develop the natural talent which we have?—  
J. G. TAYLOR,  
State Veterinarian.

### SCHOOL INSPECTORS.

A Correspondent's Reasons for Abolishing the Office.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir—I can endorse you in a general way on questions of public policies, but you will pardon me for taking issue with you on the one measure of creating at this time the new offices of inspectors and division superintendent of public education. You ask in a recent editorial why abolish such offices, and express amazement that the House of Delegates should have assumed their recent attitude towards them. One reason, at least, the action of the House, is that the taxpayers of the counties have been heard from. I do not call in question the honesty and sincerity of purpose and intention of the incumbents of such offices to earn their salaries if they can, but the question naturally arises, how do they do so? You say that the county superintendent is poorly paid and can not afford to do the work of inspection of schools. They, however, make it a point to visit their schools at least once during the season, which is as much as an inspector, with his largely increased number of schools, can do. Whilst I recognize the necessity of a head of an institution in each county, I fail to see the importance of these desultory visits from any source whatever, which not sufficiently protracted nor frequent to comprehend the peculiar environments or circumstances connected with any country school. On these lines I think a bill might be passed to increase the compensation of school trustees at least to an amount adequate to actual loss of time required to ascertain whether a teacher honestly and intelligently discharges the duties of his position, for, after all, the trusteeship is the driving wheel of the entire system. Before we employ men to better conditions in anything, we should inquire as to whether it is within the individual power of any one to change those conditions. Some may think that an inspector may secure a better class of teachers; I do not think so. The most experienced teachers of our best graded schools in a day are as liable to prove failures under the same conditions and circumstances as those of more humble pretensions. One can not always adopt beautiful theories to stubborn facts. I speak from an experience of thirty-five years as a private and public teacher of schools in both town and country. I have over found it necessary, that when the mountain will not come to me, to go to the mountain as gracefully as possible and adapt myself to the circumstances when such was beyond the power of the individual man to change. But allow me to say here that I do not believe that the cause of the want of efficiency in our public schools can be traced to the teachers as a class. I have had fifteen or twenty years' experience in the management of their meetings, both North and South, and I have never met a more earnest class of workers than the teachers of the Virginia public schools. I have, from the necessity of my position, to be a constant visitor of the schools, and I have never received from the teachers anything more helpful than the papers from these same teachers. I believe that our public schools have deteriorated

## Agents McCall Bazar Patterns



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(Much Under Price)

**WE** SNAPPED up two hundred and fifty pairs very suddenly last week. The price pointed to a considerable saving for you. We couldn't afford to let these handsome Irish Point Curtains pass unnoticed, so the entire lot is ready in the morning! Every pair is 3 1-2 yards long, and the expert couldn't tell them from the imported patterns—we were fooled and we've handled both kinds for many a year.

They are separated into five lots as follows:

Lot 1, .....	\$3.50	Lot 4, .....	\$6.00
Lot 2, .....	\$4.00	Lot 5, .....	\$7.50
Lot 3, .....	\$5.00	Every pair worth from \$5 to \$10 each.	

Now you don't want to miss this for it's a sale of magnitude—such an event helps us—helps you more!

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(Spring's New Ones)

**F**IVE HUNDRED dozen beautiful Lawn and Lingerie Waists, in long or short sleeves, comprise the showing. We have unquestionably the most liberal assortment of dollar Waists in Richmond. Everyone tells us so—and, by the way, it's mighty encouraging for such things to come to us—your visit to-morrow may lend more encouragement—Who can tell?

White Persian Lawn Waists, entire front of Val. lace and cluster tucks, with embroidery between clusters, open back with cluster tucks, deep cuff of Val. lace and tucks, collar of embroidery and Val. lace. Price, \$2.00.

White Lingerie Waists, of French Mull, pointed yoke of embroidery, with embroidery and Val. lace beneath yoke, open back with short sleeves; dainty effect. Price, \$2.48.

Special lot of Sample Waists, size 36, at half value.

White Linen, Persian Lawn and Mull Waists; of Mull, entire front of Val. lace and fine tucking in clusters, open front and back, attached collars of Val. lace, deep cuff of tucking and Val. lace. Special, \$3.00 to \$6.00.

A choice collection of White Lingerie Waists; the greatest variety of up-to-date styles; pointed and round yoke of Val. lace, with panels of embroidery; open front and back, with short and long sleeves. Special \$2.25 to \$6.00.

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**R**EALLY an enviable gathering—the best and most varied line we've ever called your attention to—or asked you to view. You may come to-morrow expecting to find a showing of unusual interest. All the foremost houses have their models ready here—an exposition indeed of the pronounced sort. Make it a point to look them over some time to-morrow. Good time to post up on fashion's whims.

For early spring some Pretty Shirt-Waist Suits of Silk are being shown; dainty effects, trimmed in lace, with yoke and cuffs of lace; shirts trimmed in folds of the material and lace between; variety of colors; fine workmanship and material. Price, \$20.00 and \$25.00.

A very attractive and pretty little Eton Suit, made of extra quality gray cloth, trimmed effect, satin lined, new style skirt. Price, \$25.00.

Cream Suits in Serges, short box coat and pony coats, satin lined, single-breasted effect, full circular skirt, some plain, others with folds. Price, \$25.00.

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from reasons apart from consideration of teachers. In the first place, upon the inauguration of the system in our State, the education of the negro was hopelessly and cheerfully undertaken by our people, but the results of past generations of years on such lines have done nothing towards removing an undercurrent of apathy which has always existed among our people, and the negro question is more than ever, after honest experiment, the source of apathy to-day.

The hands of public schools of today are irregular attendance. Now, let us inquire more fully into the causes, to see whether they can be removed. In the first place, I would call attention to the

act words: "We may live without art, we may live without books. But civilized man can't live without books." The sum of the whole matter is, that in the course of events, circumstances and conditions will readjust themselves without the necessity of burdening ourselves with unnecessary taxation, though a small matter, it may seem. Wakenfield, Va. S. V. WATKINS.

Civilization has replaced the Indian, whom by the college yell, although a visitor from another planet might not recognize the improvement.—Puck.